

C. H. S.

# BANDWAGON

Vol. 6, No. 7-8—AUTUMN ISSUE

15¢



—Photo by Pietschmann

Circus Historical Society Members at the  
Robinson Mausoleum, Spring Grove Cemetery  
Cincinnati, Ohio, August 5, 1951

— The Circusiana Magazine —

C. H. S.

## Bandwagon

122 South Main Street  
Camden, Ohio

AUTUMN ISSUE, 1951  
Vol. 6 No. 7-8

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### LOGICAL ANSWER

The school mistress was giving her class of young pupils a test on a recent natural history lesson.

"Now, Bobby Jones," she cried, "tell me where the elephant is found."

The boy hesitated for a moment; then his face lit up.

"The elephant," he said, "is such a large animal that it is scarcely ever lost."

## The Editor Says

Last week the circus was in town. Your Editor, practicing what she writes, took the neighborhood children with her. It was shocking to think that eight and nine year olds had never been to the circus, and their ignorance of what to expect was colossal, this in a town that always has at least one circus a season, this year—two, and they live within a few blocks of the show lot. It seems someone always takes the orphans and the underprivileged "kids," but the middle class youngster just doesn't get there. I have promised myself to take a couple of different children the next time. These two were sufficiently enthused I think to get there under their own steam next time. How about it? Your own kids see all the circuses for miles around but what about these others.

AGNES W. KING

### NEW MEMBERS

Raymond G. White, No. 493  
Eagles Club,  
Richmond, Indiana

David W. King, No. 494  
Metropole Hotel,  
Cincinnati, Ohio

J. Paul Rusk, No. 495  
Louden Heights,  
Charleston, West Virginia

John A. Walling, No. 496  
S. Main St.,  
Springfield, Tenn.



## Sixth Annual Convention

The Sixth Annual Convention of the Circus Historical Society was held at the Metropole Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 3, 4, and 5, 1951. On Friday, registration was held on the Mezzanine floor in the newly furnished parlor. No formal program was planned, and it was a matter of greeting friends and meeting new members, and viewing Glen Tracy's pictures which were hung there.

Several members took side trips to the Zoo, Coney Island, the Enquirer Job Printing Co., and to other places of interest in the Queen City. A business meeting was held on Saturday at 2:30. No new officers were elected at that time but the President made some appointments to fill existing vacancies, namely, Chalmers Condon, vice-president; James McGinnis, director of Division No. 3; James McKenna, No. 2, and Dana Stevens, No. 6. The 1952 Convention will be held in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and the group voted to accept the bid of Norfolk, Virginia, for 1953.

Saturday evening a banquet was held in the Ballroom of the Hotel. Ohio Circus Fans members were invited as well as other guests from Cincinnati. Dr. C. S. Karland Frischkorn, a member, entertained with some magic tricks. Richard Conover showed his wonderful collection of slides of circus wagons. The President, Bette Leonard, introduced some of the guests which included Karl K. Knecht, of Evansville, Indiana, President of the Circus Fans of America, and John Robinson IV of Cincinnati.

Sunday morning the members went by bus to the Spring Grove Cemetery. There memorial services were conducted by Robert C. King at the Robinson Mausoleum. Mrs. John Robinson III was present at these services. These services were held to honor the Circus Historical members who had died recently.

The Metropole Hotel and its staff were very gracious to the members. The Cincinnati papers were generous with their publicity and Mrs. Leonard was interviewed by a local radio station.

Members present included Bette Leonard, president; Robert C. King, secretary; Walter Pietschmann, treasurer; Agnes King, editor of CHS Bandwagon; Murray Guy, Dr. C. S. Karland Frishkorn, John C. Arter, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conover, M. W. Organ, Dad White, Mrs. William West, Clarence Shank, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kistler, John Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wixom, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Olsen, Harry Simpson, Floyd McClintock, Mr. and Mrs. Art "Doc" Miller, Raymond G. White, and Ann King.

Guests present included Charles Hill, Sally and Jake Conover, Jerry and Larry Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hughes, "Dolly Dimples," James McSorley, Johnny Anderson, Charles Wirth, Karl K. Knecht, national president of C.F.A.; John Robinson IV, Cecil Scott, Norman C. Senhauser, Richard L. Soulsby, Lloyd Bender, Dr. William Huebener, Dr. Virgil Good, and William Dammarell.

# Mayme Ward

By Fred Stafford—Sent in by Herm Linden, CHS No. 204

From the world's foremost female trapeze artist to the world's foremost circus wardrobe mistress—that's the story of probably the most popular individual in circusdom, Mayme Ward.

And it's a story none will dispute, for she is as beloved as she is accomplished. Aurora, Ill., circus-goers had the opportunity to see for themselves on Friday, July 13, when Mayme came to the Aurora Downs show lot with the Mills Bros. Three Ring Circus. The circus, world's largest motorized one, gave two performances under its own big top on behalf of the Navy Club, Ship 50.

And, for an extra dash of flavor, Mayme's appearances in this section of Illinois marks a return to familiar ground. For this section of the state has always been well known in circus channels, and it was right in Bloomington, where Mills Bros. appears the day before it visits Aurora, that Mayme and the famous Ward Flyers originated many of their famed aerial feats. Bloomington long has been the nation's trapeze training capital.

The Ward Flyers, originated by Mayme and her late husband, Eddie, in a Cedar Rapids training barn in the winter of 1913-14, moved to Bloomington as their winter training site a few seasons later. There they erected a still larger barn, especially designed for trapeze troupe training, and for many years they spent the winter months perfecting new routines at Bloomington.

Mayme's husband Eddie, and his sister Jennie, in fact were Bloomington natives, and as youngsters developed a brother-sister trapeze turn. So it was natural that, when the big six-person Ward flying return act was formed that it would eventually turn to Bloomington as its training site.

Mayme, graceful and daring as a flyer, became even more sensational as a female catcher in the Ward act—trapeze performers being divided into flyers, who swing out on their trapeze and leap through the air, and catchers, who are waiting to grasp their wrists or ankles and then see that the flyer returns safely to his original trapeze. Mayme became one of the few women ever able to do the rigorous catching work.

Husband Eddie died when their first son, Eddie Jr., was 14, and did not live to see their other son, Harold, and daughter, Genevieve, carry on the flying traditions with their mother. Mayme continued in trapeze work until 1942. Genevieve is now with her mother, assisting in the Mills Bros. wardrobe department which, under Mayme's direction, has become known as the finest in circusdom. Genevieve also appears in the big show in major aerial ensembles and also rides horseback in the glittering 1951 Equine Revue.

Mayme joined Mills Bros. a year ago and immediately began establishing the circus as America's best dressed circus. Through the winters now, she labors over the spangles, sequins and richly-colored wardrobe which makes circus performers so dazzling.

Before coming to Mills Bros. she did wardrobe designing for a number of stage shows and spectacles, including having direct charge of the elaborate costumery for the famous Sally Rand show at San Francisco's Golden Gate Exposition and working with a number of other outstanding show world personalities.





—Photo by Pietschmann

Photo taken at Spring Grove Cemetery



—Photo by Pietschmann

Bette Leonard, President with Mrs. John Robinson III,  
Raymond White in background.

# For Young and Old Alike

Written by Dana W. Stevens, CHS No. 374

An often overlooked but rich source of information to the circus devotee, whether he be collector or mere fan, is to be found in the world of children's books.

A trip to the children's room of any public library offers a multitude of circus lore and pictures, and all are done by the best writers, artists and photographers in the business. Naturally, some of the books are written on a purely elementary first and second grade school level, but the drawings and photographs are for young and old alike.

The following examples are some that I've run across in the Wichita City Library:

**The Ringlings—Wizards of the Circus.** This is a new book published in 1951 by Alvin F. Harlow. The story traces the Ringling Brothers from the time of their early openings in Baraboo, Wisconsin, up to the time they became the Greatest Show on Earth. Some excellent historical data here. A group of picture illustrations accompany the text. One picture shows the Ringlings in a family pose taken about 1895. A multiple photo page shows various performers of the contemporary show in action. A few old billboard posters are shown. One in particular is interesting in that it shows Arthur Saxon when he was the feature strong man of the show. A final collection of pictures shows the home and grounds of John Ringling at Sarasota, Florida.

**Toby Tyler or Ten Weeks With a Circus** by James Otis Kaler. Illustrated by Louis S. Glanzman. Some of you may remember this one, for it is an old but perennial favorite. Originally it ran as a serial more than fifty years ago in *Harper's Young People* magazine.

**Barnum's First Circus and Other Stories** by Laura Benet. The first ten pages of this book are devoted to the early circus exhibitions of Phineas T. Barnum in the Barnum barn.

**John and Jennifer at the Circus** by Elsie M. Harris and illustrated by Gee Denes. This one is a story about the Bertram Mills Circus in England. It is full of beautiful color photographs of every phase of this fine and colorful show. A must for everybody who wants to add some excellent pictures to their collection.

**Little or Nothing from Nottingham** by Marguerite Henry and illustrated by Wesley Dennis. Dedicated to circus fans everywhere. The story is based on an anecdote that F. B. Kelley told in his article "The Wonder City that Moves by Night," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1948. The story concerns the change of towns that fools even the dog. The sameness of each circus lot fooled this little dog into burying a bone each day under the ticket wagon and then next day trying to dig it up on the new lot. Fine drawings on all aspects of circus life.

**Six Good Friends—A Story of Circus Horses** by Pers Crowell. This is a book that every adult circus fan or collector should have. The story covers every phase of the use of horses in a circus. Everything is represented here from the rosin-back to the trick mule. The drawings are such that they can't be described adequately enough. They have to be seen to be appreciated.

SEE YOU ALL IN THE LIBRARY TOMORROW!



# Many Circuses Toured The Country 42 Years Ago

From Chas. E. Duble, Associate Editor, CHS No. 39

Looking through a lot of old printed matter of circuses and minstrels, I came across a page from a New York Clipper of July, 1909, listing these circuses that were touring the country that year. Many of the titles are familiar I am sure to all circus fans. Some are overland wagon shows. The list follows:

Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show On Earth; Ringling Bros' World's Greatest Shows; Great Sells-Floto Shows; John Robinson 10 Big Shows; Hagenbeck-Wallace Shows; Campbell Bros. Great Consolidated Shows; Gollmar Bros. Great American Shows; Cole Bros. World-Toured Shows (Martin Downs, Propr.); Norris & Rowe Greater Shows; John H. Sparks Shows; Mighty Haag Shows; Sun Bros. World's Progressive Shows; Howe's Great London Shows; Yankee Robinson Show; Frank A. Robbins Show; Welsh Bros. Show; Gentry Bros. Shows No. 1; Gentry Bros. Shows No. 2; Mackay's European Shows; Coulter & Coulter Shows; Howard Damon Shows; Howard Starrett's Shows; King & Tucker Shows (2 cars); Andrew Downie Show (2 cars); Colorado Grant Show (2 cars); Buffalo Bill & Pawnee Bill's Wild West; Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West.

**Wagon Shows:** LaMont Bros.; Ric Bros.; Al. F. Wheeler New Model Show; M. L. Clark & Son.; Chas. Bartine Show; Silver Family Show; Great Luger Show; Great Reed Show; Lorenzo & Maurer; Adam Fetzer Show; Heber Bros. Show; Woodford & Elzor Show; Dickey's Circle D Ranch Wild West; Snyder Bros. Wild West.

The following shows played parks or fairs: Tanner Bros. Dog & Pony Show; California Frank's Wild West; Texas Bud's Wild West; Buckskin Ben's Wild West; Bud Holmes Wild West, and Lone Star May's Wild West.

The only circus titles still before the public, listed above, are Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey (used in the combined form since 1919). Quite a contrast to 42 years ago, the writers first year with the white tops.

\* \* \* \*

**Circus notes from a Billboard of October, 1906:** Major Caillouette, in his twenty-third week with the Al. F. Wheeler Model Show is successfully presenting his unicycle, wire and baton acts.

Washburn & DeAlma Show has closed its season and gone into winter quarters at Corona, N. Y.

Orton Bros. Circus will shortly go into winter quarters at Des Moines, Iowa. Next year a small menagerie will be carried.

John G. Robinson writes that there is plenty of money down in North Carolina, that the show played to turn away business at Charlotte, despite a steady rain. The Robinson name draws the crowds throughout the Southern territory.

(Continued on page 8)

—Hobby-Bandwagon, Aug.-Sept., 1951—Page 7



—Photo by Pietschmann

Speakers Table R. C. King, Secretary, Agnes W. King, Editor of Bandwagon, Karl K. Knecht, President of C.F.A., Bette Leonard, President of C.H.S., John Robinson IV, Charles Wirth, Harry Simpson. (Back to camera Mrs. West and Mrs. Conover.



—Photo by Pietschmann

Floyd McClintock, Richard Soulsby, Dr. William Huebener, John Boyle, Lloyd Bender, N. Senhauser





—Photo by Pietschmann

(Turned toward camera) Sally Conover, Ann King, Jake Conover. (Across the table) the Wixons and Clarence Shank.



—Photo by Pietschmann

Clarence Shank (with camera), Raymond White, Murray Guy, Charles Hill (left side of table). On the right, "Dad" White, Dr. Virgil Good, Dr. Karland.

# Sam Dock, Showman

Written by Art "Doc" Miller, CHS No. 450

Old Sam Dock, is fairly well known in the east by the old timers, although its doubtful if fans elsewhere ever heard of him. He is one of the oldest active showman.

I am quite familiar with his many years of trouping starting in 1883 on Frenches Oriental Circus. About 1893 he started his own wagon show and it operated profitably under his management until the start of World War II. The outfit continued on wagons until the late twenties when it was motorized. The last to go were the cage wagons which traveled overland until 1929.

In 1946 his daughter and grandson rebuilt a small unit featuring old Sam with his dogs, ponies and goats. With money flowing in from all directions, his son-in-law, and other grandson helped to build the show larger and it really mopped up. In 1949 it went out with a new four pole '60' and for a small show it really looked classy.

It's still out although I don't know just who is with it this season. I imagine it's quite a bit smaller as I believe the family are not all on the show. As with most family shows, together they can operate one, but fight like cats and dogs constantly. This was not true when Sam operated the show himself. I've never seen any publicity on Sam and it seems a shame he doesn't rate a few lines while he is still alive.

The reason I am so familiar with his life is that I spent many an hour with him gathering data for a book on the old wagon show days—Rolling Sunburst Wheels.

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## MANY CIRCUSES TOURED THE COUNTRY 42 YEARS AGO (Cont'd)

Alberto, the flexible marvel, enroute with Beach & Bowers Minstrels has signed with Forepaugh-Sells Circus for 1907. The show turned them away October 6, in El Paso, Texas.

Jones Railroad Show was offered for sale, J. Augustus Jones, Owner. Route, Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 26; Andalusia, Ala., 27; Union Springs, Ala., 28.

Miles Orton Show advertised for performers, musicians, side show people and billposters. To be out all winter. Address, Norman Orton, Beaufort, S. C., October 18.

Great Van Amburg Show, Jerry Mugivan, owner, advertised for performers, riders, boss canvasman, working men, trainer to work elephants, 10 candy butchers, and good musicians. Brazil, Ind., Aug. 15. Clinton, Ind., 16th; Newport, Ind., 17th.

The Great Norris & Rowe Circus wanted for side show, sister team, lady bag punchers, and other act or curiosity. Show to run 20 weeks longer. Address Walter Shannon, Manager side show, care Billboard.

Note—This circus came to an end early in May, 1910, at Newport, Ky., when attached by the Donaldson Lithographing Co., for debts. The writer closed with same a few days before the end and joined Gentry Bros. Famous Shows, the same day in Indiana.



# The Early Circus in Rochester, New York

Sent in by James W. Kelley, CHS No. 113

I recently purchased a small paper covered book entitled *SOME EARLIER PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS OF ROCHESTER (N.Y.)* by George M. Elwood, and in its pages are some interesting notes about the circus in Rochester—here's one.

"So late as 1849 the editorial staff of the Advertiser was prohibited from even mentioning theater or circus. In his *Sketches of Rochester*, published in 1838, good old Henry O'Reilly gives a devout expression of thankfulness that 'neither theater or circus can now be found in Rochester. The buildings formerly erected for such purposes were years ago turned to other objects—the theater is converted into a livery stable and the circus into a chandler's shop.' "

On another page we are told of early traveling circuses:

"The history of the early amusements would not be complete without some account of the travelling circus. The *BROADWAY CIRCUS* was the first to pitch its tents within our gates, in the summer of 1840. Its announcement was characterized by that modest verbiage that has since become typical of the class, in testimony whereof 'Mr. Cadwallader, a Philadelphian by birth, and styled by the equestrian artists the Colossal Rider. This gentleman's feats is truly wonderful, the apparent ease and grace maintained by Mr. Cadwallader while his fiery steeds are darting around the arena, have created the greatest sensation before the most fashionable audiences of N. Y. Master Jno. Glenroy, the Pride of the American Arena, and pupil of the Great Cadwallder, whose extraordinary feats on the back of his rampant steed leaves the audience in wonder and amazement, who justly term him the Equestrian Roscius of America.' Then followed the well remembered names of *HOWE'S CIRCUS* with Dan Rice as clown, *ROCKWELL AND STONE'S* with Levi J. North the equestrian, and Herr Cline the rope walker; *SPALDING'S VAN AMBURGH'S*, *RICE AND LENT'S*, and *ROBINSON'S*; sometimes four or five coming in a single season. Barnum came first in 1848. Some of the earlier circuses are advertised to appear 'near Brown's Square on the grass plat between Kent and Frank Streets,' and one 'on the open space near North Fitzugh Street.' "

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## KASISKA IS NEW ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Bill Green of Washington, Kansas, has resigned as Election Commissioner, and President Bette Leonard has appointed Bill Kasiska of Baraboo, Wisconsin, to take his place. Bill Green felt that the pressure of other busi-

ness as well as the fact that he has served as Commissioner for a long time, made it necessary for him to give up the job. We feel sure that Bill Kasiska will do a fine job in the position. He will be quite busy now, for this is election year, and Bill is also making plans for the 1952 Convention which will be held in Baraboo.

## *Announcement Extraordinary . . .*

TO COLLECTORS AND MODEL BULDERS

## **Circus Wagon Photographs**

This is first and exclusive offering of the collection taken by W. C. Sommerville and C. J. Baker of the Baker & Lockwood Mfg. Co. "The Tent Show Builders" during the years 1900 to 1910.

**RINGLING BROS. — CARL HAGENBECK — SELLS-FLOTO  
GENTRY BROS. — 101 RANCH WILD WEST  
PAWNEE BILL WILD WEST — CAMPBELL BROS.  
NORRIS & ROWE — ADAM FOREPAUGH  
SELLS BROS — ETC.**

They are close up parade shots showing wagons and horses, riders and a few lot scenes. Taken when the parade and fine carved wagons were in their prime.

I am pleased to make these selected photographs available to collectors and model builders and many friends who have obtained photos from my collection.

Pre-viewed and recommended by Col. W. H. Woodcock,  
CHS, CFA, CMB&OA

SEND 6¢ FOR DESCRIPTIVE LIST

**J. W. BEGGS**

7125 Park Rd. Eastwood Hills, KANSAS CITY 3, MO.

### **THE BANDWAGON IS LATE!**

Yes-the Bandwagon is late. We of the editorial staff are not going all out to make a lot of excuses. We are in the printing business you know-and things have been pretty rugged since the middle of August. So-we had to put off the Bandwagon. That's all we have to say about the matter. BUT-there will be another Bandwagon in the mail not later than December 10. In this issue we sure would like to have some Greeting ads from all of you. So-if you will send us a dollar-we will put in your greetings. These must reach us not later than November 28. We've got a lot of other material all ready for the next issue-its going to be a honey. So-lets all get into the act-and make this next issue the best ever.

Page 12—Hobby-Bandwagon, Aug.-Sept., 1951

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The sympathy of every member goes to Chalmer Condon, in the recent death of his Mother. Those who have met this remarkable woman will never forget her.

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Mr. and Mrs. John Heidl and daughter, and his sister, Miss Beatrice Heidl, visited in Baraboo for several days recently. They visited with Bill Kasiska and went through the old quarters, the cemetery, Elks home, (formerly Al Ringling's home), and the museum and theatre built by Al Ringling.





—Photo by Pietschmann

John Boyle, Lloyd Bender, Norman Senhauser,  
(Back to camera) Jake Conover, Floyd McClintock



—Photo by Pietschmann

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kistler, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wixom, Clarence Shank.  
(Back to camera) Richard Conover, Melvin Olsen, Sally Conover.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pvt. Albert Conover  
US 52138833  
Hvy Mortar Co. 38th Inf. Reg.  
A. P. O. 248  
San Francisco, Calif.

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Joseph Shields No. 66, invites all members who visit California at any time, to be sure and include a visit to him at the Serra Book Shop, Mission San Diego de Alcala, San Diego, Calif. The Mission was founded July 16, 1769. They have a nice Gift Shop and a small Museum and carry a big variety of novelties, Post cards, souvenir books and a fine stock of Religious goods. He says, "To include a trip to our very large and fine Zoo at Balboa Park, and above all, say 'Hello' when they visit our Mission."

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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Chris Audibert who were married on October 20th, in New York. Lots of Luck Chris and Sylvia.

## JOSEPH DOBAS

### Former Mills Bros. Performer Dies

Joseph Dobas 59, aerial acrobat died at his home in Ventnor, N. J., on August 16th, after a long illness. He toured Europe and South America before coming to the United States in 1923 to join Sells-Floto Circus. With his wife, Anna, and his two daughters, Auegenia and Hildegard, billed as the Four Dobas, he played the Million Dollar Pier in Atlantic City during 1932-33. He was with Mills Bros. Circus for several years before his illness.

## FRANK GENTRY

### The Last of the Four Gentry Brothers Dies

Frank Gentry died Saturday, October 6, at the Elks National Home, Bedford, Va. Burial was in Bloomington, Indiana. He was born in Bloomington, Indiana, March 23, 1874. After the death of his three brothers, Frank disposed of the Dog and Pony Show and he and another man, purchased the Sells-Floto circus. He entered the Elks Home on January 1, 1949, and had been in the hospital there since January 11, 1950.



## 1951 ROUTE BOOK

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Titus.

## Wanted!

Pictures of the original  
**WALTER L. MAIN CIRCUS**  
What do you have?

**F. L. McCLINTOCK**  
924 Trenton Ave.  
URICHSVILLE, OHIO

## At the Convention

Our young people, **Sally and Jake Conover** and **Ann King** had a grand time swimming at Coney Island and getting lost from each other in the City.

Did you know that "**Fritz**" **Conover** is an excellent skeet ball player? She really hit the high paying scores on her Friday afternoon at Coney.

The other passengers on the bus from Coney Island on Friday, about 6:30, were highly amused at the noise the six on the back seat made. They were jealous, too, of all the prizes that were lugged home. These included beads, monkeys, banks, dishes and miscellaneous articles. The best of the prizes were four gold fish.

What about it **Clarence**? What did really happen to that other gold fish?

Who do you think should get the mileage record for trips in and around Cincinnati? I know we would all vote for Mrs. West. Her excursions included the Taft Museum, Coney Island, the Zoo, and a walk across the Ohio River bridge to Kentucky. Congratulations.

Did you know that we had the youngest and oldest regular members of CHS at the Convention? Yes, **Ann King** and "**Dad**" **White**.

**Dr. Karland** made quite a hit with all his momentos of the City of Norfolk. Thanks, Doc.

I think **Mrs. Wixom** had more fun than the kids did at the banquet. Did you have indigestion afterwards **Clarence**?

Notice **John Boyles'** cigar in the pictures of the banquet. I understand he didn't smoke very much of it.

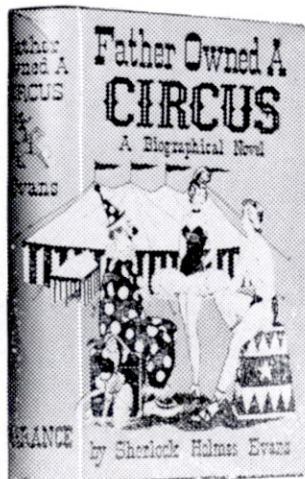
Was **Bob King's** face red when he won the attendance prize. Honest, folks, it was honest.

**"Pure Witchcraft"**

**"A Storehouse of Treasured Memories"**

A convincing plot—a yarn which goes a long way in capturing the atmosphere of small circus's—biographical phrases ring true—a story unusually free of technical errors—seasoned with tales about colorful characters who worked with the show, A CREDITABLE ADDITION TO CIRCUS WRITING—

says, Tom Parkinson in *The Billboard*, June 23, 1951, of



## "FATHER OWNED A CIRCUS"

the amazing new circus novel by

**SHERLOCK HOLMES  
EVANS**

LAWYER-AUTHOR

Knows his circus and its people. He weaves a story of the circus with real and fictional characters, and some anecdotes, putting them in the right places. He also packs dramatic stories into the tale. The story of the tattooed lady holds real drama and would make a terrific picture. In fact, the book itself would make a fine circus pic. Real, small-time circus. When you finish it, your clothes are dampened by the steam from the caliope. That's how close this circus stuff is to you. **"FATHER OWNED A CIRCUS"** is good reading. I wish my old man had owned one.

says: Joe Laurie Jr., reviewing for *VARIETY*, Issue of May 2, 1951.

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